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Letter dated 21 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour of writing to you in your capacity as the President of the Security Council for the month of September 2007 and would like to request your kind assistance in circulating as a document of the Security Council the present letter and annexed statement made at the press briefing on the recent attack by Abkhaz separatist militants on the police unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 21 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations at the press briefing on the recent attack by Abkhaz separatist militants on the police unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

21 September 2007

Yesterday, at approximately 11.30 a.m., Georgian Interior Ministry police units came under attack from armed Abkhaz separatist militants in the vicinity of the road connecting the Svaneti region to Upper Abkhazia.

The incident took place beyond the territory of the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic, at the bottom of the north-east slope of Khojali mountain. As a result of the confrontation, two separatist militants were killed, one was wounded and seven were taken into custody.

None of the militants killed, wounded or captured had any form of identification. The main tasks of the militant group were surveillance and demolition of the road and infrastructure, as was shown by their movement and absence of identification.

The militant group was detected a few days ago by the road construction security unit, which alerted local police. An investigation is being conducted by the General Prosecutor's Office. The Georgian side expresses its readiness to invite relevant international organizations to monitor the treatment of the detainees.

Here I must stress that yesterday's incident is part of a chain of alarming events that have followed the successful anti-criminal police operation in Upper Abkhazia.

This incident, like the assault on the Minister for Internal Affairs of Georgia in October 2006, the combined artillery shelling and air assault on governmental infrastructure in Upper Abkhazia on 11 March 2007, the offensive nature of the separatist military exercise in August 2007 and the statements of the de facto regime leadership to reclaim Upper Abkhazia by military means, leads us to believe that some forces are provoking military confrontation.

We look to the United Nations community to properly evaluate existing developments and security arrangements and to condemn such provocations. These provocations underline the urgent need to implement the preventive measures outlined by the joint fact-finding group after the March 2007 incident.

Moreover, it is imperative that the United Nations and our partners in the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General demand that Abkhaz separatists comply with Security Council resolutions and suspend all military activities, and convince them to enter into meaningful direct negotiations. Let me reiterate that direct dialogue between Abkhazians and Georgians at all levels is the cornerstone of confidence-building measures and the future peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Georgia is strongly committed to a peaceful, comprehensive, political settlement of the conflict and, in this regard, we cooperate with the relevant international organizations, including UNOMIG, which has been asked to conduct a rapid assessment and make a report. It must be considered and understood that Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty are inviolable. Only in this context can we advance a result-oriented political process and achieve peaceful conflict resolution.